

PLAY BILLS THIS WEEK

DU SOUCHE'S "MY FRIEND FROM INDIA" RETURNS TO ENGLISH.

Grand Stock Company in "A Gilded Fool"—Double Bill at the Park—"Black Crook" at Empire.

It is not likely that H. A. Du Souché, the telegraph operator, who wrote "My Friend from India," ever dreamed that the play, which he lugged about in his trunk so long and which was finally produced five seasons back, would outlive all contemporaneous farces, but such is the case. "My Friend from India," which returns to English on Monday night for three days, and a Wednesday matinee, has not only shown it has more vitality than the others which came out that year, but its immense success inspired a number of struggling authors and resulted in a perfect school of plays made only for the purpose of producing laughter. In none of them has the originality been displayed that made "My Friend from India" a success. While it employed the subject of theosophy in working out the situation, the new religious cult was not handled in a way to be objectionable to its followers, as the story of the play will bear out. Erastus Underholt, a rich pork packer residing in Kansas City, with a grown son and a pair of lovely daughters, aspires for their sake to enter society, but he finds the doors barred against him. Nothing daunted, he determines to try in New York, but meets with the same cold reception. Young Underholt goes out one evening to spend his father's money and meets, among others, an unsophisticated barber, with whom he becomes quite familiar, and both being full of wine, return to Underholt's home and go to bed. The father is about to shut down on his flashy son for his questionable conduct, and the boy on awakening next morning dreads an exposure when the family discovers his young bed-fellow. He finds a book on theosophy in the clothes of his guest, and when the latter appears wrapped in a yellow bed spread young Underholt introduces him as his friend from India, a famous theosophist. Underholt, er, and the rest of the family are delighted to have such a guest in their house and decide to retain him and use him as a lever with which they expect to force open the doors of society. Now, it happens that this barber knows absolutely nothing of theosophy, but is continually thinking of his straps and razors and figuring how he can extirpate himself from his dilemma until the two daughters and young Underholt's sweetheart all three fall in love with the so-called theosophist. Then the fun begins—rivalry, love, aspirations and hate all combine to confuse and add to the complications, all of which are excruciatingly funny. It is to this extent the subject of theosophy is utilized in the play, and it is sufficient, for thousands have laughed at the ridiculous situations of the red-headed barber during the three acts of "My Friend from India." George Mack plays the barber and Miss J. Bradshaw has the part of Erastus Underholt. Ernest Ward, Louis Vroman, Charles Mitchell, Portia, and others, including Dodd, Ethel Strickland, Louise Arnold, West Temple, Madge Otis and Ada Gilman are also in the company.

GRAND STOCK COMPANY. "A Gilded Fool" Starts Last Month of the Season.

The Easter week production by the Grand Stock Company, beginning to-morrow night, will be "A Gilded Fool." The last month of the stock company's Indianapolis season is now on and it is the intention of the management to make the remaining few weeks profitable for good plays. Nat Goodwin last played "A Gilded Fool" here several years ago. The title of the play is a name given to a wealthy young man named Chauncey Short, who is shown at the beginning of the first act emerging from his sleeping apartment with a large-sized headache, the result of a debauch. This is the last of the young man's dissipation, however, as he meets Margaret Ruthven, falls in love with her and concludes to conform to her idea of what a young man should be. He determines to begin a business career and is induced to put money into the firm of which Miss Ruthven's father is at the head. The latter's partner, Banister Strange, is the villain of the play, "works" the "Gilded Fool." During Ruthven's absence abroad Strange has been speculating with the firm's money to such an extent that its resources are crippled and for that reason he talks Short into investing a large portion of his wealth in a practically insolvent business. Of course Ruthven on her return protests against it, but Short, after his eyes are opened to the true condition of affairs, makes up his mind to stick to it and by secretly ascertaining just what line of stocks Strange is buying, he manages to take the opposite side of the market, so that Strange is losing. In that way he saves both his own fortune and the good name of his father and the good name of the firm. The love of Margaret Ruthven, Strange is exposed, largely through the work of a detective from England who is dispatched by the Rev. Mr. Howell, and who has been sent from London to apprehend Strange for a criminal financial transaction over which Short shows his generosity, however, at the close of the play by telling Strange that he has bought back the stock of the firm and yet result in a reformation and gives him enough money to make a new start in life. The comedy of the play centers around the breezy character of Chauncey Short, who, in spite of the trouble he bought with his father's money, is continually making bright remarks.

Mr. Hansel will have the difficult task of appearing in Goodwin's old part of Short. It requires an actor of a certain quality of presence and with a certain brisk quality to his acting to properly portray this character, and Hansel should be able to do it well. Miss Shannon will be seen as Margaret Ruthven, a light sympathetic character. Mr. Kirkland will have another part in a villain's part, for Banister Strange has all the polish of a gentleman. Miss Dally has the character part of an old maid named Miss Rod, and Miss Field will be seen in the charming part of the Rev. Mr. Howell. Mr. Sheldon will appear as the Rev. Howell. Mr. Patton as Jack Duval, who is in love with Nell. Mr. Jones as the Rev. Mr. Howell. Miss Bridges as Mrs. Ruthven and Mr. Bradford as Matthew Ruthven. The minor characters will be about the last sensational play of the season at the Park. It has been some time since a piece dealing with the seamy side of New York life has been put on at the Park, and the audiences are about ready for a production of this type.

"The New Boy," a farce comedy of more than ordinary legitimate type, which had long runs in London and New York will be seen at the Park the last half of this week, with Bertie Cooté in the leading part. Mr. Cooté has been identified with "The New Boy" from its first production. He has an individuality that is all his own and is known as an actor of exceptional ability. The play deals with the trials of a rich, bald, repulsive, thin, little man who has married a widow twice his weight and, having invested his money in a campaign company that failed, his wife is compelled to seek employment. She is engaged as housekeeper at a boy's school, the principal

of which takes her husband for a boy and installs him in a dormitory with a lot of mischievous youngsters. The Kemmicks are afraid to reveal the deception for fear she will lose her situation and the good will of the principal and so poor little man has to through three acts among the boys in the dormitory. The fun is described as uproarious. Mr. Cooté's beautiful wife, Miss Kingsley, is in the cast, together with O. E. Hallen, Nelson Lewis, Manie Johnston, Dorothy Dearborn, Adele Mann and a dozen others. "The New Boy" will introduce some popular songs during the play.

"Black Crook" at Empire. Jermom's "Black Crook" extravaganza company, one of the better class among attractions the Empire has offered this season, will play a return date of three days, beginning to-morrow afternoon. Considerable change has been made in the personnel of the company since its appearance at the Empire early in the season, the most notable addition being the sketch team Dan Crimmins and Rosa Gore, which has been steadily winning praise from the press of the principal Eastern cities. Other specialty producers in the company are Minnie Cline, the Clemmings Sisters, singers and dancers; Edgar Bixley and Emma Weston, a clever pair who made a hit when at the Empire with the "Royal Burlesques" a few months since, and Ruth West, a balladist. The performance opens with the burlesque "The Four Clock Club" containing a good many bright lines, several good specialties, including the illuminating burlesque and a wealth of good music. Burlesque also closes the show. "Black Crook" is a company is one that is noted for the richness of its costumes, with pretty girls to fill them, and handsome scenery. There will be the usual matinees.

Frank Daniels at English's Next Week. One of the greatest of all the comic opera-fun-makers who have achieved success on the American stage is Frank Daniels, the comedian who will be remembered in this city for his work in "Little Puck." Since Daniels was last seen here he has produced two of the most successful comic operas since the days of "Erminie." Following "Erminie" De Wolf Hopper's "Wang" was the only comic opera of pronounced success and then for several years there was nothing that attracted attention until Kirk La Sells secured "The Wizard of the Nile," by Victor Herbert and Harry R. Smith, for Frank Daniels. It was an operatic sensation when produced at the New York Casino, running half the year and might have finished its career there for other engagements. It did not get out of the East that season and the next year continued its successful career in the West. Last season Daniels duplicated his first success with "The Idol's Eye," another opera by Herbert and Smith. Daniels is playing both this season and will bring his big company to English's for three days the first half of next week and will give Indianapolis theatergoers their first opportunity to hear both operas. The sale of seats will open next Thursday.

Notes of the Stage. Next week's bill at the Grand will be "Arctostaphylos." It has been underlined for some time past and Stage Director Belows believes it will be one of the best of the season.

Albert Hart, who has been playing the leading comedy role in Sousa's "The Bride Elect," has been engaged for one of the chief characters in "The Man in the Moon."

Ernest Ward, the youngest son of the famous tragedian, Frederick Ward, is the leading juvenile man in Smyth and Rice's company, presenting "My Friend from India." Charles E. Mitchell, the stage manager of "My Friend from India" company, is a nephew of Maggie Mitchell and a brother of Julian Mitchell, stage manager for all of the company's plays.

Mrs. Fiske has been forced to change her plans for the closing weeks of her engagement at the Fifth-avenue Theater, New York, and will revive "The Tenth Muse" and "The Tenth Muse" for the last two weeks. New York critics would not have Mrs. Fiske in "Frou-Frou."

The Walte Opera Company will be at the Park all next week in a repertoire comprising "Paul Jones," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Pinafore" and other popular operas. It is made up of Joseph Smith, Arthur Moore, Claude Amstein, Julia Clifford, Frank Woolley, Mayne Dwyer, John Dewey, Victor Delaney, Clement Gifford. It is the only opera company of the Park's season.

The old Wallack theater, now the Star, at Thirtieth street and Broadway, New York, may remain for awhile yet. The Astor estate has offered H. M. Bennett and Davis & Co. a lease of the theater with the condition that it may be terminated on short notice at the end of a year and a half. At that time the old playhouse may be pulled down to give way to a business structure.

Miss Katherine Field is fortunate in having a character in "A Gilded Fool" so important as that of Nell Audrey for to-morrow night is her souvenir evening. This occasion will complete the set of souvenir plays of the stock company. Miss Field's friends are likely to be out in large numbers to see the extra souvenir night, which will be April 10 and 11, when the feminine patrons can make their own selections of photographs.

Edna May, now in London with "The Belle of New York," has begun suit for divorce from her husband, who is Fred Titus, the cyclist. Titus is the brother of Sylvia Thorne, and Edna May's mother says the divorce suit was started by the fact that Edna May was seventeen years old and that she is now tired of him. Some time ago it was reported from London that Miss May was to become the wife of Mr. Cavendish, who has no title.

"Brother Paul," in support of Viola Allen in "The Christian," this season, will play a leading character part in "Children of the Ghetto" next year. Mr. Keenan staged the great mock scenes in "The Christian," and he had enough good quality to make it yet result in a reformation and gives him enough money to make a new start in life. The comedy of the play centers around the breezy character of Chauncey Short, who, in spite of the trouble he bought with his father's money, is continually making bright remarks.

The complete list of the principals in "The Man in the Moon," the production which will be presented at the New York early next month, is as follows: Louise Freear, Marie Dresser, John Henshaw, Walter Jones, Louis Wesley, Samuel Bernard, Tony Hart, Jr., William Burress, May Ten, Fred Brown, John Henshaw, John Henshaw, Jeanette Bageard, Millie Wilson, Anita Wilson, Joseph Torrey, Milo Joyce, James O'Neill in "The Musketeers," now running at the Broadway Theater in New York. Mr. Keenan possesses unusual ability in training large numbers of people for effective dramatic situations.

the accruing honors. Something like twenty-five years ago no less than six Juliets were seen in New York in a single day at the same performance. The occasion was a benefit tendered to George Remond, a favorite English actor, who, at the time, was at Wallingford and Maud Granger were among the Juliets who appeared at that benefit.

THE OLD STATE DITCH. A Reminiscent Bit as to How It Received Its Name.

In a conversation with Gen. John Coburn, yesterday, an interesting reminiscence bit was developed as to the manner in which the state ditch, that ran south of Morton Place, was constructed and how it obtained its name. Most people in the city have heard of the state ditch, for it has not been covered up long enough to be forgotten, but few people know how it happened to be classed as a state affair, when it began and ended in Marion county.

Back in the thirties, a bayou run through the west side of the old Statehouse grounds, and of a time it was filled with a deep water sufficient to float a horse. This bayou came from the northeast, crossing Indiana avenue between Mississippi and Tennessee streets (now Senate and Capitol avenues, respectively), and crossing Illinois street just south of St. Clair. It originated in a swamp east of the old fair grounds (now Morton Place). This swamp extended east to a locality just north of the Atlas engine works. An overflow of the banks of Fall creek did much to fill up this swamp, and the bayou was a natural outlet for the swamp. During one session of the Legislature, in the latter part of the thirties, a bill was introduced to carry the ditch across the entire north end of what at present constitutes Indianapolis in order to get the water off the bayou, and when they were in the morning they found their route to the Statehouse completely barred by the bayou, or ferry of any kind to offer them relief. There wasn't much else to do but wait till the freshest had taken its course, and as a result, the work of the solons was considerably hampered. Previous to that time there had been some discussion of diversifying the course of this bayou, but there were no means with which to undertake the work. Gen. T. A. Morris was then a young civil engineer and he suggested a plan for building a ditch to carry the waters from the swamp back into Fall creek. 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